

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/NE:CARROLL L. FLOYD;MT
APPROVED BY:THE ACTING SECRETARY
EUR/NE -WILLIAM A. BUELL, JR. - EUR:GEORGE S. SPRINGSTEEN
S/S:MR. BARNES

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ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION NATO
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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EXDIS - TOSEC 128 - ZFF CAIRO ONLY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION TEXT LINE 4 PARA 3 TO END
OF MESSAGE)

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, NATO, XF
SUBJECT: UK CONCERN OVER US CRITICISM AND APPARENT NEWS
LEAKS

1. DURING NOVEMBER 5 CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY, UK AMBASSA-
DOR CROMER, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, VOICED STRONG BRITISH
CONCERN OVER US CRITICISM OF UK SUPPORT IN MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS AND OVER WHAT UK VIEWS AS SERIOUS BREACHES OF CON-
FIDENTIALITY. CROMER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH LONDON DID NOT
REPEAT NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT, HMG FOUND US
CRITICISM OF UK QTE COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED AND TAKES NO
ACCOUNT OF BRITISH NEEDS AND INTERESTS. END QTE. MOREOVER,
BRITS SAW IT AS QTE VERY DAMAGING TO THE ALLIANCE. END QTE.
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2. CROMER NOTED PRESS REPORTS OF BRITISH FAILURE TO OFFER
SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR THE US RESUPPLY EFFORT WERE INACCU-
RATE SINCE, AS WE BOTH KNEW, US HAD ASKED FOR NO SUCH SUP-
PORT. AS FOR USE OF BRITISH BASES FOR STAGING RECONNAIS-

ANCE FLIGHTS, UK HAD GRANTED PERMISSION THOUGH US HAD NOT
AVAILED ITSELF OF THE FACILITIES. LONDON WAS VERY CONCERNED
NOT ONLY OVER THE FACT THAT THE PRESS CARRIED REPORTS OF THE
REQUEST BUT ALSO THAT THE REPORTS WERE INACCURATE IN STATING
BRITISH HAD TURNED US DOWN.

3. AS FURTHER EXAMPLES OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE SERIOUS BREA-
CHES OF CONFIDENTIALITY, PRESS REPORTS AND CRITICISM BY
OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN HAD REVEALED PUBLICLY THAT UK HAD
DECLINED TO TABLE AN IN-PLACE CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL. ASS FAR AS SUBSTANCE OF CRITICISM, THE
UK HAD INFORMED US ON OCTOBER 13, THAT THEIR CONTACTS
WITH SADAT HAD LEFT NO DOUBT SUCH A RESOLUTION WAS A NON-
STARTER AT THAT POINT. UK SPONSORSHIP OF IT WOULD, THERE-
FORE, HAVE HAD NO RESULT EXCEPT TO JEOPARDIZE THEIR POSI-
TION WITH THE ARAB STATES. IN ANY EVENT, THE BREACH OF
CONFIDENTIALITY WAS DISTURBING. CROMER ALSO CITED UPI RE-
PORT OF SECRETARY'S BRIEFING OF NATO AMBASSADORS ON NOVEM-
BER 2 WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE SESSION AS ONE IN WHICH US
CASTIGATED NATO PARTNERS. CROMER, ON OTHER HAND, HAD SEEN
SESSION AS PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL. HE SAW PRESS REPORT AS
ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF LEAKS LEADING TO INACCURATE REPOR-
TING. ANOTHER INACCURACY WAS VIEW REPORTED BY PRESS THAT
UK HAD NOT BEEN KEPT ADEQUATELY INFORMED RE US ALERT. HMG,
ON THE CONTRARY, WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH US-UK EXCHANGE
OF INFORMATION HERE.

4. ENDING HIS DEMARCHE, CROMER RE-EMPHASIZED UK HAD BEEN
COOPERATIVE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SO; LATEST EXAMPLE
WAS UK AGREEMENT TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO HANCOCK TASK
FORCE. BUT HMG ASKS THAT UNFOUNDED CRITICISM AND BREACHES
OF CONFIDENTIALITY CEASE. MOREOVER, FUTURE REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLANATION OF WHAT
LIES BEHIND THEM. THE UK CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ACCEDE TO
QTE BLANK CHECK END QTE REQUESTS.

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5. ACTING SECRETARY RUSH REGRETTED THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS
HAVE ARISEN AND AGREED MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY WAS
ESSENTIAL. HE AGREED WITH CROMER'S OBSERVATION THAT IT
WAS IMPORTANT TO AIR ANY DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT
AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEM. RUSH

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